

FREE CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH.

LOUISVILLE, KY, THURSDAY APRIL 19, 1866.

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Number 30

For the Free Christian Commonwealth.
Danville, April 19, 1866.
There are few people in Kentucky who have not, at some time, given their love. I might say a reverence, for our Institutions in Danville. They have evinced their appreciation for them by contributing, first, of their funds to their endowment and support, and then entrusting their instruction to their instructors.

Very truly yours,

It had arisen to the power of the institution in the West. As year by year we have seen its full classes leaving its halls, emerging into the duties of life and occupying the highest positions of office and trust, not only in our Commonwealth, but our country, we have had reason for pride.

We may say truly of our Theological Seminary, it won rapidly upon the affections of our people. They poured of their wealth into its treasury, until in an incredibly short period, it ranked with some of our older Seminaries in its endowment. Young men from all portions of our country flocked to this young school of the Prophets, until in the course of six years, its annual catalogue numbered more than fifty. No murmurs fell from the lips of any one, and we thanked God for its success.

When an attempt was made to establish a Female Seminary in the place, second to no other in the country, to all appearances it was a grand success, and there was an attachment springing up for it throughout the State. This is, I think, a true statement of the case in reference to these institutions.

Let us inquire into their present condition. Our College has dwindled in the number of its students, until it is surpassed numerically by some of our country schools. It has from some cause lost its hold upon the affections of the Presbyterians of our State, and as an evidence, scores of our young men are attending colleges of other denominations in our own State, or have gone elsewhere to secure an education. Many more are already expressing a determination to pursue a similar course in the fall.

Our Theological Seminary has become almost vacated. A mere handful of students, numbering for some time only three, and now at the close of the session five or six. Of this little number, some are there by force of circumstances.

For the instruction of these young men the Church is paying annually to three Professors, \$5,000; including all expenses, over \$1,000 for each of these young men. Instead of increasing year by year in numbers, as it did for several years, it has become almost extinct, and if it progresses one year more in the same ratio, the Professors may prepare a funeral oration for its demise at the close of the present session. It has in a greater degree than the College, lost its hold upon the hearts of our people. I speak plainly—it has become a stain in their nostrils.

It is not with much more pleasure we contemplate the career of Caldwell Institute. All this is painful to contemplate, yet they are facts that cannot be gainsayed.

For such effects there must be a cause. Why this loss of interest upon the part of the people? Why this desertion of these halls of learning, sacred to many of our hearts by association and because of their influence? It is not because of a want of interest in education.

It can only be because of the cause of the war, and the want of, and scarcely a College that has not a larger number of students than before the war began.

You may say the cause is with the people; but why does not the same cause affect every other Institution in a similar way. I am free to say, the cause lies in the institutions themselves. I have heard the views of many of our people and a number of the elders and ministers of Kentucky, and universally the fault has been attributed to the class of men who occupy the position of professors.

In the political and practical strife through which we have passed, these professors have occupied a position of influence, and placed in them, which has been the

attempt to throw overboard their Boards of Directors and trustees some of their oldest, worthiest and most steadfast friends, purely upon the ground of their political tenets—and the substitution of men (with a few honorable exceptions) who have been notoriously obnoxious (vide Assembly's minutes, 1866) to five-sixths, if not all the people of our Church.

Who will take the trouble to list the Board of Theological Seminary past, mark the class in their

perpetuity. These things are worthy of serious thought.

AN OLD FRIEND.

For the Free Christian Commonwealth.

No Compromises with Church Radicals.

Where there is no middle ground between parties, there can be no compromise safely and honestly made. We hold that the church is a spiritual body, and the State a political body, and that any mixing and working of these together, is a deadly injury to both. Now this is so, or it is not so, and there is no middle space between the opposites, where any man or party can put the soles of their feet. Men claim the right to use the church as a great political organ, to announce to the world their own loyalty; to decide the political allegiances of parties; to dictate to cabinets, to what extent of cost and labor the wars of a nation may be carried; to decide particular policies according to a particular party and administration; and then to prescribe political terms for ecclesiastical union. These, and such things as these, strike us as perfectly monstrous when struck by and coming through the church of God. We have not a word to say, nor hint to suggest against any honest, manly loyalty. But it is hard to think, or speak respectfully of a loyalty, which makes the church of God the blaring trumpet of its own glory, and the agent of its own malice.

The difference, between Church and State is so great, and in some things even antagonistic, that any attempts to unite them, or to mingle them, have never failed to generate evils of the most serious and gigantic nature. What a lesson should American statesmen and soldiers learn from the last ten or eleven centuries of European history?

If the plea was true, it only proves that the Presbyterians of the Synod of Kentucky are nearly all of them secessionists; for the institutions are dying rapidly for want of friends and patronage, and it is clear, that what patronage the institutions may have, must come from Kentucky or the South. Such being the case, before you can revive the love for these schools in the hearts of the people, or fill Professors rooms with students, you must either change the disposition of the people, or look for new friends and patronage from another quarter.

It seems that after four years trial, these men styled Southern sympathizers will not patronize institutions they have endowed with their money or suffer men of radical sentiments and speeches to teach their children. Is it wise therefore, for gentlemen to cling to these positions, when by so doing, they will eventually destroy themselves as well as the institutions? Will either party be benefited by such a course?

This leads me to inquire, is there no remedy? Are other Institutions to flourish around us, and ours perish? Are our sons and daughters to be sent to schools of other denominations, or out of the State, when a remedy is at hand?

I say, no. I believe the universal sentiment of those who are friends of the cause is, that the remedy is simple,

namely, the placing of a different class in their Professors. (I refer to those only, who by word or deed, make themselves obnoxious to so large a majority of the patrons and friends of the schools.)

Give us conservative men in their views and feelings, whatever their political predilections, and the moment it is done, there will be a rallying of old friends as in days of yore, and a new zeal in their interest.

I love the institutions of Danville, and I sorrow to see them perish, as they certainly will, unless some change takes place. This is patent even to those who have radical views.

The day has come for speaking plainly, and I ask, in view of the educational interests at stake: in view of the interests of Presbyterianism in our State, in view of the active and gigantic efforts other denominations are making to secure the training of our youth, would it not be better for these Professors to resign their positions and our Institutions to be filled with men of conservative views, with whom all classes could affiliate, and would readily support?

It would be easy to name gentlemen in our own Synod who have differed during our war upon political issues, who could fill these Professorships with honor, and yet be cordially supported by all parties.

Shall other denominations secure the

education of Presbyterian children, or

will the majority of Presbyterians of

Kentucky be forced to secure Institu-

tions whose Boards of Trustees and

Professorships are not filled with men

of such obnoxious partizan views? The

time has come when all parties should

be willing to shape their course accord-

ing to the state of ease as it really pre-

sents itself to us. Let us exercise that

prudence which others are exercising so

admirably. These things are worthy

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" " " six months, 10 00
" " " one year, 15 00

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All communications touching the paper, whether business or otherwise—addressed to

A. DAVIDSON, Ag't & Publisher,
No. 95, Third Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries are requested to send the name and Post Office address of the Commissioners elected by their respective Presbyteries to the General Assembly, to DAVID K. DAVIDSON, Louisville.

Particular attention is called to this request, and prompt action urged, as it will greatly facilitate the work of the Committee to Provide for the Entertainment of the General Assembly.

We have received a copy of the Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. It is a pamphlet of 412 pages. As we have already published the proceedings of this body, we simply call the attention of our readers to the fact that these minutes can be procured by sending 50 cents to Rev. JOSEPH R. WILSON, D.D., at Augusta, Georgia.

We publish in another column, an account of the action of the Presbytery of Nashville—publishing the papers referred to in the abstract of proceedings furnished by the Stated Clerk.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of this city, has just extended a cordial and unanimous call to the Rev. R. Carson to become pastor. Mr. C. has been preaching in this Church as stated supply for a considerable time, and his labors have been greatly blessed as is evidenced by the present prosperous condition of his charge. Some twenty persons or more have recently been added to the membership. We hope our friends of the Fourth Church will now speedily carry into execution their purpose of building a new Church in a more eligible locality than the present one.

The St. Louis Convention. Some of our contemporaries are a good deal exercised about the Convention which is to meet in St. Louis just before the meeting of the General Assembly, lest it shall destroy the equilibrium of that body, by proposing some radical action in regard to certain persons in the church, who earnestly protest against the unscriptural and unconstitutional acts of the last four or five Assemblies.

From the signs of the times, we shall not be surprised to find the most radical action proposed by that Convention, the Head Center agreeing as a condition, that he will use his influence in carrying out other measures which may be proposed by that caucus, viz: the union with the New School, which seems of late to have become a very popular measure, and is advocated with more or less zeal by most of the journals in our church. We have an idea that our friends who have been trying to get along by the use of strategy in managing church matters will find that strategy will not answer at such a time as this, and that all their plans for harmonizing, will utterly fail. Standing fast to principle is the only safe course for all true men to pursue, let the consequences be what they may. It is the only course which Christ the Great Head of the Church will approve.

Assessment of Churches in the Louisville Presbytery for Contingent and Commissioners' Funds.

Worship Church, \$12 00
Cane Run and Plum Creek, 3 00
Middletown, 6 00
Shelbyville, 18 00
Big Spring, 10 00
New Castle, 5 00
Jeffersonburg, 3 00
Goshen, 5 00
Hodgenville, 5 00
First Church, Louisville, 18 00
Second Church, Louisville, 18 00
Chestnut Street Church, Louisville, 18 00
Franklin, 3 00
Westport, 3 00
Shiloh and Oliver, 10 00
Portland Avenue, 5 00
Cloverport, 2 00
Bardstown, 9 00
Perry, 4 00
Walnut Street Church, Louisville, 9 00
Mulberry, 12 00
Hebron, 9 00
Taylorsville, 6 00
First Church, Louisville, 4 50
Pleasure Church, Louisville, 3 00
Big Bend, 2 00
Elizabethtown, 6 00
Leipsort, 3 00

The Churches that have not already done so, will please send the above amounts as early as possible, to A. Davidson, Treasurer of Presbytery, at Louisville, Ky.

RONALD NORRISON, Stated Clerk.

REVIEWS.

BLACKWOODS MAGAZINE—for March, has come to hand. It contains in addition to the articles continued from previous numbers, the following, viz: A Religious Novel. Reform of the Bank of England. The position of the Government and their party.

Address Leonard, Scott & Co., 38 Walker street, New York.

THE LADY'S FRIEND.—For May, has been laid upon our table. It is edited by Mrs. Henry Peterson, and published by Deacon & Peterson, Philadelphia.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW—for January, contains eleven articles as follows: Modern Fresco Painting; The Youth of Carindal Mazarin; Public Galleries and Irresponsible Boards; An Economist of the Fourteenth Century; Recent Changes in

the Art of War; Boner's Transylvania; Was Spakspeare a Roman Catholic; Corn and Cattle; The Erckmann-Chatrian Novels; Mary Tudor, and Brandon Duke of Suffolk; Extension of the Franchise; Leonard, Scott & Co., 38 Walker street, New York.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The PRINCETON REVIEW.—for April, has the following articles. Bushnell on Vice and Virtue; The Samaritans, Ancient and Modern; The Great Schools of England; The Raising of Lazarus; Dr Spring's Reminiscences of his Life and Times; Short Notices.

Peter Walker, 821 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND THEOLOGICAL REVIEW.—for April, has the following table of contents, viz The Bible Idea of Truth, as inseparable from the Divine Personality, by Taylor Lewis L. L. D. The Double Sense of Scripture, by W. S. Tyler, D. D. The Ancient Catholic Liturgies, by Phillip Schaff, D. D. Quartremere, the French Oriental, by Gustave Masson. The Relation of Intuition to Thought and Theology, by Prof. John Bascom. James iv-5, in connection with Genesis iv-7, from the German of E. Pare. The Political Situation, by George L. Prentiss, D. D. Critical Notes on Recent Books.

J. M. Sherwood, No. 5, Beekman st., New York.

A Word of encouragement from Western New York.

An eminent minister of the gospel in Western New York, in renewing his subscription to our paper, speaks in the following terms of his high appreciation of our labors for the truth:

"Each successive number of your paper decays the conviction which I delighted to express to my friends—that for the application of the principles of Scriptural Church Government to the present condition of the Presbyterian Church; and also for the thorough knowledge and ready handling of the facts of Ecclesiastical History—there is no journal which can be compared with the "Free Christian Commonwealth." The ablest Reviews would be adorned and enriched by the articles prepared for its columns."

"It is refreshing and strengthening to read the words of men profoundly believing that Christ has a kingdom on the earth which is not of this world, and of which He is the Head. It is a privilege to commune with men who know what Jesus has said in regard to the nature, laws, organization, officers, instrumentalities and functions, of that kingdom; and what He has said of its future."

"A noble, purifying, sanctifying God-honoring work is being done through your faithful labors, and those who co-operate with you, dear brother. Your pecuniary return may be small; your toil onerous; but your reward—how sure! how transcendently precious."

Very sincerely yours."

Here is another from Tennessee:

"I desire you to appoint _____ as agent to canvass this entire district of country for your paper; I regret it was not done before. You ought to have agents in all parts of the South, who can spend time to solicit subscribers."

Your paper really deserves more patronage than any other in the South; for you have fought fanaticism in the church with ability and success, and at a time when it tried men's souls. But for your paper doubtless there would not have been any reaction for sometime to come."

Yours truly,

H. K. NORTHWAY, Clerk.

"REVIVAL"—In this connection, and to show that we are not left without a witness of Christ's gracious presence and blessing, we copy the concluding portion of a letter from one of our faithful pastors, who has not waited in vain for the consolation of Israel:

"I cannot conclude without telling you that the Lord has been doing great things for our Church within a little more than two years, which has pleased the Great Head of the Church, and has manifested itself to our beloved brethren, viz: A. W. CANNON, who was suddenly taken on the morning of Feb. 26th; and THOS. SANDERS, who within twenty-four hours after, was taken with congestion of the brain, and died on the 1st of March. Both of these deaths occurred within the church—the former Jan. 24th, 1854, and the latter, April 22d, 1854, and were made Ruling Elders April 2d, 1854. Active in their efforts for its welfare and enlargement; faithful in every duty to their Master, and to all their fellow-servants; and all their efforts to society, to their families and to the Church of God, with whom we have often taken sweet counsel in the work committed to us, and whose prayers and labors were ever earnestly and sincerely given for its success.—Therefore,

"Received, That we bow in humble submission to the will of the Most High, and in divine Providence, earnestly praying that it may be sanctified to every member of this church, leading us to greater watchfulness and faithfulness in the discharge of every duty, as we know not at what hour the Master may come."

"Received, That this expression of the high and affectionate regard entertained by this church for the elevated and Christian character of our deceased brothers, and of our deep sense of the great loss sustained by us as a church, he spares not. May the Master, in his goodness, be near to their bereaved families, with whom we sincerely and deeply sympathize in their affliction, and earnestly commend them to His who has promised to be the father of the fathers, and the husband of their widow; and that I may be allowed to add to the "Free Christian Commonwealth" for publication."

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